

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6803

BILL NUMBER: HB 1555

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Reporting Deaths to County Coroner.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bacon

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires that all deaths must be reported to the coroner.

The bill provides that a coroner does not have to follow certain organ and tissue procurement procedures if the coroner determines the procurement will impede or interfere with a death investigation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill requires all deaths to be reported to the coroner. The bill would further allow the coroner to determine which deaths should be investigated. The Coroner's Training Board staff reported that this provision would have a significant fiscal impact. The cost would depend on the extent to which staffing hours would be increased in each county in order to address the increased calls and the extent to which each county coroner would investigate additional cases.

Background Information: Current law requires the coroner to be notified when a person has died from violence; has died by casualty; has died when apparently in good health; has died in an apparently suspicious, unusual, or unnatural manner; or has been found dead. Deaths not reported to the coroner are considered medical deaths (i.e., the deceased individual, due either to age or medical status was expected to die, and a primary physician signs off on the cause of death). For medical deaths the primary physician usually has

personal knowledge of the deceased and knows their medical history as well as access to the medical records to assist in the determination of the cause of death.

Coroner's Training Board staff have reported that since the coroners do not have ready access to the accumulated personal knowledge of the primary physician, if all deaths were reported to the coroner, they would have to obtain the medical records, review them, and also consult with the primary physician on the findings. It is believed that this provision would increase staffing hours due to increased administrative and investigation time. Cost would be on a county-by-county basis and is currently indeterminate.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Coroners.

Information Sources: Tony Ciriello, Director of Training, Coroner's Training Board (574)529-3080.

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